

FCC MAIL SECTION

Jun 15 10 56 AM '98 Federal Communications Commission DA 98-1084

DISPATCHED BY  
Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b),  
Table of Allotments,  
FM Broadcast Stations.  
(Questa, New Mexico)

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MM Docket No. 98-83  
RM-9280

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING****Adopted: May 27, 1998****Released: June 12, 1998**

Comment Date: August 3, 1998

Reply Comment Date: August 18, 1998

By the Chief, Allocations Branch:

1. The Commission has before it the petition for rule making filed by Metro Broadcasters-Texas, Inc. ("petitioner"), requesting the allotment of Channel 279C1 to Questa, New Mexico, as the community's first local aural service. Petitioner states that it will apply for the channel, if allotted.

2. We believe petitioner's proposal warrants consideration since the allotment of Channel 279C1 could provide Questa with its first local aural transmission service. Questa is an incorporated community with a 1990 U.S. Census population of 1,707 persons. It has its own police and volunteer fire departments, elementary, middle and high schools, and post office. In addition, it has a number of commercial businesses, churches and financial institutions.

3. Channel 279C1 can be allotted to Questa in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements with a site restriction of 5.8 kilometers (3.6 miles) southeast to avoid a short-spacing to both the allotment reference coordinates and the transmitter site specified in the application of Idaho Broadcasting Consortium, Inc. (BPH-971126MD), for Channel 279C2 at Silverton, Colorado.<sup>1</sup> We note that petitioner had requested the specification of coordinates (36-32-25; 105-24-59) which represent a site restriction of 22.9 kilometers (14.2 miles) southeast, stating that this is the location of Wheeler Peak, the highest elevation in New Mexico, with a major ski resort adjacent to the peak and ample power due to the ski lifts in operation at the resort. However, the Commission generally does not protect a prospective applicant's desired transmitter site where, as here, the channel can be allotted with a less restrictive site restriction and the allotment will be available for application by multiple parties

<sup>1</sup> The coordinates for Channel 279C1 at Questa are 36-40-33 North Latitude; 105-32-27 West Longitude.

since there is no guarantee that the petitioner will ultimately become the licensee. See Stuart and Boone, Iowa, 5 FCC Rcd 4537 (1990), recon. denied, 6 FCC Rcd 6036 (1991).

4. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment of the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, for the community listed below, to read as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Channel No.</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Questa, New Mexico	--	279C1

5. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

6. Interested parties may file comments on or before August 3, 1998, and reply comments on or before August 18, 1998, and are advised to read the Appendix for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a copy of such comments should be served on the petitioner, or its counsel or consultant, as follows:

Andrew S. Kersting  
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, P.L.C.  
1300 North 17th Street, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22209-3801  
(Counsel to petitioner)

7. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules. See Certification That Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b), 73.504 and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

8. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact Leslie K. Shapiro, Mass Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no ex parte presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a Notice of Proposed Rule Making until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An ex parte presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the

other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement. Any comment which has not been served on the petitioner constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment which has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment, to which the reply is directed, constitutes an ex parte presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

John A. Karousos  
Chief, Allocations Branch  
Policy and Rules Division  
Mass Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

### APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's Rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal(s) discussed in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent(s) will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off protection. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's Rules).

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposals in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person(s) who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's Rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Center (Room 239) at its headquarters, 1919 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.